



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR, MAGA'HAGA'

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR, SIGUNDO MAGA'LÁHI

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT

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LINDA UNPINGCO DENORCEY, MPH
DIRECTOR

LAURENT SF DUENAS, MPH, BSN, RN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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DPHSS Receives Thousands of Mosquito Repellent Pump Sprays from the CDC Foundation

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) announced today that it has received a donation of mosquito repellent pump sprays from the CDC Foundation. The mosquito repellent pump sprays were donated to the CDC Foundation and shipped to Guam by SC Johnson. The donation will help the community of Guam protect themselves from the dengue virus and support local efforts to counter dengue.

The CDC Foundation is an independent nonprofit organization created by the U.S. Congress to mobilize philanthropic partners and private-sector resources to support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's critical health protection mission.

The CDC Foundation took immediate action to aid Guam after DPHSS Director Linda Unpingco DeNorcey personally met with the President and CEO of the CDC Foundation during her September work trip from Guam to Atlanta, Georgia, while the island was in the initial stages of combating dengue.

"I was fortunate to personally meet Dr. Judith Monroe, President and CEO of the CDC Foundation, when I went to the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) meeting in September 2019. This is the first time ever that the CDC Foundation has donated to Micronesia," Director DeNorcey said. Prior to leading the CDC Foundation, Monroe was director of CDC's Office of State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support, and served as president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). Ms. DeNorcey, DPHSS Director is an active member of ASTHO.

"We give our extreme gratitude for the generous help from the CDC Foundation and SC Johnson for giving us the mosquito repellent pump sprays so that we can combat dengue immediately and directly," said Director DeNorcey. "We thank the CDC Foundation for responding to our request. The mosquito repellent sprays will help in protecting Guam's most vulnerable populations," she said.

DPHSS is working with the Mayors' Council of Guam, Guam Department of Education, Chamorro Land Trust Commission, local nonprofit organizations, and the Guam Homeless Coalition to identify areas where individuals at high-risk of dengue infection live and those living in sub-standard housing. CDC Foundation contributions will be distributed through multiple dissemination channels.

Dengue Testing

The Guam Public Health Laboratory suspended all PCR dengue testing after an electrical fire on Nov. 26, 2019 caused internal damage to the DPHSS Central Facility in Mangilao. Since Sept. 11, 2019, there have been 14 confirmed cases of locally acquired dengue infection and 8 confirmed cases of imported dengue infection. The last confirmed case of locally acquired dengue was on December 21, 2019. In mid-December, DPHSS sent three blood specimens to the State of Hawaii's Public Health Laboratory for dengue testing and is awaiting results from these tests.

The dengue virus is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito and cannot spread directly from person-to-person. Anyone who lives in or travels to an area where dengue virus is found can get it from mosquito bites. The community is advised to avoid mosquito bites and eliminate mosquito breeding sites to help stop the spread of dengue virus.

"There is no cure. You can only prevent dengue by cleaning your environment, throwing away anything that can hold stagnant water, emptying containers filled with liquids weekly will help to prevent the mosquitos from breeding," Director DeNorcey said.

Dengue Fever Symptoms

See your healthcare provider if you experience any of the following symptoms of dengue fever: fever, aches and pains, rash, or bleeding (including mild bleeding from nose or gums). Visit your nearest hospital emergency room if you experience any of the following symptoms of severe dengue fever: severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, significant bleeding, lethargy or restlessness. To diagnose dengue, a healthcare provider may order blood tests to look for dengue. A blood test is the only way to confirm the diagnosis.



**LINDA UNPINGCO DENORCEY, M.P.H.
DIRECTOR**